

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5537

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TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST DEBATE IN SC

REF: USUN 284

1. TEXT OF AMB MOYNIHAN'S EXPLANATION OF VOTE AFTER THE VOTE
ON THE MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTION VETOED IN SC ON JANUARY 26
FOLLOWS:

THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT LIGHTLY CAST A NEGATIVE VOTE
AGAINST THE RESOLUTION THAT WAS BEFORE US. WE VOTED NO
ONLY AFTER LONG AND CONSCIENTIOUS CONSIDERATION AND WITH THE
REALIZATION THAT WE MUST KEEP FOREMOST IN MIND A GREATER
GOAL BEYOND THIS COUNCIL CHAMBER. I WANT TO MAKE CLEAR
OUR REASONS FOR VOTING AS WE DID -- AND THE SERIOUSNESS
WITH WHICH MY GOVERNMENT FIRST WEIGHED THE VIEWS EXPRESSED
IN THIS DEBATE. AS WITNESS TO OUR INTENT AND PURPOSE THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES AT THIS MOMENT
IS RELEASING A STATEMENT THAT MORE COMPLETELY SETS OUT
UNITED STATES VIEWS ON WHERE THIS DEBATE HAS LEFT US IN OUR
SEARCH FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE.

TO BRIEFLY STATE THAT POSITION WE CONCLUDED THAT OUR
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RESPONSIBILITY TO SEEK FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD AN OVERALL

PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST REQUIRED US, EVEN IF WE STOOD ALONE, TO PRESERVE THE FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATIONS ESTABLISHED IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242 AND 338. THE PROVISIONS THAT WERE BEFORE US WERE SUCH THAT WE CONSIDERED THE NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK WOULD HAVE BEEN ALTERED IN WAYS THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY HARMFUL TO THE FUTURE OF THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS. WE UNDERSTAND THE REASONS BEHIND MANY OF THE IDEAS THAT HAVE BEEN PRESENTED HERE AND WE ARE NOT CLOSING THE DOOR TO THE INTRODUCTION INTO THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS OF CONSIDERATIONS THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADDRESSED. RATHER WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS BETTER TO GO FORWARD WITH THE AGREED BASIS THAT DOES EXIST, TO UTILIZE IT TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITY, AND TO SEE IT EVOLVE IN A MANNER THAT WILL MAKE IT MORE USEFUL RATHER THAN RUNNING THE RISK OF DESTROYING IT.

ON JANUARY 19 MR. PRESIDENT I MADE BEFORE THIS COUNCIL A SHORT STATEMENT OF THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON CHANGES TO THE AGREED FRAMEWORK FOR NEGOTIATION. I SAID THEN THAT CHANGES IMPOSED, WHATEVER THE INTENTIONS AND WITH WHATEVER JUSTIFICATION, BUT NEVERTHELESS IMPOSED, WOULD NOT WORK. THAT IS A POINT THAT I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AGAIN TODAY. THE UNITED STATES NEGATIVE VOTE ON THE RESOLUTION WAS NOT BASED ON ANTIPATHY TO THE ASPIRATIONS OF PALESTINIANS, BUT RATHER ON THE CONVICTION THAT THE PASSAGE OF THAT RESOLUTION WOULD NOT AMELIORATE THEIR CONDITION NOR BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF ADDRESSING THE LONG-NEGLECTED PROBLEM OF THEIR FUTURE IN THE CONTEXT OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

IT IS NOT A QUESTION OF WHETHER BUT OF HOW TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD THE GOAL WE ALL PROFESS.

ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES, SIR, I WISH TO THANK THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL FOR HIS STATESMANSHIP AND LEADERSHIP THAT HAS PILOTED US ALL THROUGH IMPORTANT AND FAR RANGING DELIBERATIONS.

I WISH TO CONGRATULATE ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE SPOKEN HERE FOR THE THOUGHTFULNESS AND MEASURED TONES OF THEIR POSITIONS.
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SURELY THIS APPROACH IS CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL TO THE PARTIES THAT MUST SOON PROCEED TO NEGOTIATION OF ALL THE ISSUES BEFORE THEM -- TO MATTERS OF PROCEDURE, THE QUESTION OF ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATION, AND THE MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE SUCH AS WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, THE FIGHT OF ALL STATES IN THE AREA TO LIVE WITHIN SECURE AND RECOGNIZED BORDERS, AND RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH EACH OTHER.

WHEN WE FIRST BEGAN OUR DELIBERATIONS THE UNITED STATES
MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE WISHED TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND TO
PRODUCE POSITIVE RESULTS TO AID IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE.
MANY, WE KNOW, WILL BE DISAPPOINTED THAT WE DO NOT HAVE A
RESOLUTION TO USE AND REFER TO, BUT FOR OUR PART LET ME
SAY THAT WE HAVE NONETHELESS PROFITED FROM THE VARIOUS VIEWS
THAT HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED AND WE HAVE INCREASED OUR UNDER-
STANDING OF THE ENORMOUS COMPLEXITIES BEFORE US ALL.
ARMED WITH THE POSITIVE SUGGESTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN MADE,
FORTIFIED BY THE SERIOUSNESS AND CONCERN OF ALL WHO HAVE
PARTICIPATED, THE UNITED STATES PLEDGES TO YOU -- TO YOU
ALL AND TO THE UNITED NATIONS THAT WE WILL PERSEVERE IN THE
SEARCH FOR PEACE, THAT WE WILL MAKE USE OF THE FRAMEWORK
FOR NEGOTIATION THAT HAS BEEN PRESERVED, AND THAT WE WILL DO
OUR BEST. WE NEED THE COOPERATION OF ALL OF YOU TO MAKE THESE
EFFORTS SUCCEED -- I HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US AND HELP US IN
THIS QUEST AND AS IT RECOMMENCES FOR THE UNITED STATES IT IS A
MATTER OF SPECIAL IMPORT TO KNOW THAT E HAVE THE UNFAILING
AND DETERMINED EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
WITH US IN THIS MATTER. THANK YOU.
MOYNIHAN

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